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Council Calls for May 11 Bond Vote

\$53 Million, 5-Year Package Results from Citizen Input

In an effort to meet the challenges of continuing rapid population growth and the need for more economic development, the Broken Arrow City Council has approved a \$53 million, four-part bond package which will be decided by voters on Tuesday, May 11.

Since the last bond issue was passed in the fall of 2000, the city's population has expanded by nearly 10,000. Broken Arrow, at about 84,000, is the fifth largest city in Oklahoma -- behind Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Norman and Lawton. In 1980 Broken Arrow ranked 28th in the state in population. It rose to 9th in 1990 and will soon pass Lawton and Norman, most experts predict.

"This continued growth is not an accident," said interim City Manager Gary Blackford, who's been employed with the City for more than 40 years. "City leaders and citizens decades ago laid the foundation for the quality of life we enjoy here today. There has always been a demand for good streets and roads, parks, and a strong police and fire department.

"Our commitment to that quality of life in Broken Arrow has been the major factor in recent additions such as campus here for Northeastern State University and the Creek Turnpike South Loop. As hard as it is to believe, all of the indicators point to a growth in population and in business and industry that will be unprecedented."

As in past bond issues, the current proposals were developed by a pyramid of citizen input and support. An open town hall meeting at the new Centennial Hall in The Main Place (another result of the 2000 bond issue) got the ball rolling last fall. This was followed by a series of committee meetings in transportation areas and quality of life.

The reports of those committees were presented to the City Council, which put together the final packages and set the May 11 election date. If approved, the bonds would be paid back over a period of five years. With existing bonds being paid off as we go, there should be little or no change in city property taxes.

The bulk of the funding would go to transportation

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JUSTICE CENTER OPENS -- One of the key pieces of the bond issue package approved by BA voters in 2000 was this Criminal Justice Center, which opened in April. It includes a new jail and municipal court.

Rooster Days Kicks Off May 6 As Chamber, City Join Forces

Broken Arrow's annual Chamber of Commerce Rooster Days Festival keeps getting bigger and better, and that makes its partnership with the City even more important as the May 6 kickoff nears.

Not only does the City help with "up-front" funding for Rooster Days, but City employees provide invaluable assistance in preparing Central Park, the Community Center, handling traffic and parking problems, providing security and medical assistance if needed, etc.

Recognized as one of America's top special events, Rooster Days is a "win-win" proposition for residents of Broken Arrow. Not only does it provide an opportunity for families here to have a variety of fun and entertainment over the four days of the festival, it brings in thousands of visitors to the community. And the City is rewarded financially by the Chamber, depending upon how big the crowds are and how much they spend.

It's a partnership which has proven successful through generations of Broken Arrowans -- and undoubtedly will

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Bonds....

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projects. There are 15 specified projects, with a total of \$27,375,000 allocated.

There is \$12,770,000 for public safety projects, including a new emergency operations center which would also house police and fire department offices and a fire station. Parks & Recreation would get \$5,155,000, and the other \$8,075,000 would be used for a museum for the BA Historical Society and a Conference Center.

City of Broken Arrow May 11, 2004 Bond Election

Proposition No. 1 (Transportation, \$27,375,000)

1. Albany, widen to 3 lanes, 9th to 23rd	\$1,320,000
2. New Orleans, widen to 5 lanes, Elm to 9th	\$1,550,000
3. Elm and New Orleans intersection	\$460,000
4. 9th, widen to 3 lanes, Albany to Omaha	\$1,320,000
5. Kenosha, resurface 4 lanes, 23rd to 93rd	\$920,000
6. New Orleans, widen to 3 lanes, 9th to 23rd	\$1,895,000
7. Aspen, widen to 5 lanes, New Orleans to Florence	\$2,070,000
8. Elm, widen to 3 lanes, Tucson to Jasper	\$1,150,000
9. Olive, widen to 3 lanes, Kenosha to Houston	\$1,380,000
10. Washington, widen to 3 lanes, 1st to 9th	\$1,435,000
11. Kenosha, widen to 5 lanes, 37th to Creek	\$1,035,000
12. Olive and New Orleans intersection	\$745,000
13. Kenosha, widen to 5 lanes, 23rd to 37th	\$1,895,000
14. Olive, widen to 3 lanes, Houston to Washington	\$1,265,000
15. Washington, widen to 4 lanes, Elm to 1st	\$722,500

Public Safety (Police and Fire, \$12,770,000)

1. Emergency Operations, PD & FD headquarters	\$7,500,000
2. Police Department renovation	\$545,000
3. Phase II Training Center	\$2,400,000
4. Fire Station No. 6	\$2,050,000
5. Warning Sirens	\$267,000

Quality of Life (Parks, Recreation, \$5,155,000)

1. Youth Football Complex	\$1,560,000
2. Baseball field lighting	\$455,000
3. Spray/Splash pool at Haskell	\$70,000
4. Nienhuis Park Additions	\$455,000
5. Ray Harral Nature Center	\$585,000
6. Battle Creek Golf Course improvements	\$750,000
7. Indian Springs Sports Complex Expansion	\$185,000
8. Four picnic shelters	\$95,000
9. Land: Fitness Center/Community Center	\$1,000,000

Public Facilities (\$8,075,000)

1. Conference Center	\$6,575,000
2. BA Historical Museum	\$1,500,000



BAPD'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR -- For the first time, the BA Police Department named a "Citizen of the Year" at its 18th Annual Awards Banquet March 6. Police Chief Todd Wuestewald presented the award to Oliver Middle School student Katie Rowland, who raised more than \$32,000 to purchase ballistics vests for the PD's four dogs in the K-9 unit. The award will be given annually to a city resident whose efforts make a positive impact on the police department.

Police, Fire Name Top Officers

Broken Arrow's Police and Fire Departments this winter named their top officers for 2003. Lauren Palmer was named Firefighter of the Year by his peers, while Sgt. Jimmy Glass was selected as the BAPD Officer of the Year.

Both were honored at the Jan. 30 Chamber of Commerce Awards banquet. Both, it was pointed out, were selected for a year -- and career -- full of outstanding accomplishments.

Palmer received highest praise for his actions at a motor vehicle collision in which four youths were thrown out and seriously injured. The firefighter/paramedic is credited for saving lives, and two of the boys have been to visit him at Station No. 4 to tell him as much.

Glass added some heroics in burglary and murder scenes to his daily work as a traffic patrol officer.

Police, Fire Departments Gain National Attention

At a time when many public safety departments around the nation and in our immediate area have been forced to cut manpower, the City of Broken Arrow has not only increased the numbers in its police and fire departments, but has gained national attention for many of its programs.

While still below the level of manpower they would like to have, both departments have made maximum use of grant funding and innovative thinking. They've also joined emergency management personnel in a role of leadership in statewide training programs for homeland security.

In fact, Broken Arrow is due to host a major regional training exercise this spring (the date was not yet finalized at press time), bringing in first responder units and emergency management leaders from throughout this area, as well as some state legislators who will be watching.

The advances made by the departments are for more than show. They are already having an impact on the quality of life in the community. Interim Fire Chief Greg Neely, who has been one of the leaders in regional homeland security exercises at Camp Gruber, reports that a new assessment of the City's fire department should bring an even higher rating that it currently has -- saving residents money on insurance.

The Police Department has won numerous awards this past year for enforcement of traffic laws ranging from seat belt use to speeding in school zones. It also won a state award for a joint effort with BA Public Schools, warning teen drivers of the dangers in driving while intoxicated.

Just recently the BAPD was recognized nationally for its theme of community policing, and Police Chief Todd Wuestewald has been invited to speak at regional seminars on the topic. The department has also worked with Tulsa Community College and Northeastern State University to develop a curriculum in law enforcement.

Both Neely and Wuestewald have been published in national publications, giving Broken Arrow even more recognition.

2000 Bond Projects Completed

With spring arriving, the City is finishing up some major projects funded through the bond issues passed in the fall of 2000.

A new Criminal Justice Center (see photo on Page 1) has been completed, as has the Youth Center in Nienhuis Park. The Main Place has been utilizing its new Centennial Hall for several months now. Expansion of sports facilities at Indian Springs Sports Complex has enabled many more young people to get involved in soccer and baseball, and the youth football complex is being started at Nienhuis.



HAPPY TRAILS TO BA -- The biggest trail project in the history of Broken Arrow began this winter when all the paperwork was completed for the construction of the South Loops Trail system. Phase I (shown here) runs from the city limits at New Orleans and Garnett to Aspen. Additional phases will link the trail system to that of Tulsa.

Trash Bag Distribution, Spring Clean-Up Day Scheduled

Saturday, May 1, has been set as the City's Free Spring Clean-up Day, with distribution of the free plastic trash bags to begin April 12.

Each year the City provides 200 (four rolls of 50) plastic trash bags to utility customers. Post cards are sent out in late March and early April to give details to those customers. The cards must be brought in to the Maintenance Center at 1700 W. Detroit and be exchanged for the four rolls. You may also bring the card by City Hall (the far south end at the Utilities Division). New customers are also given free trash bags.

Distribution will run 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., from Monday, April 12, through Saturday, April 17, then again from April 19 through April 24.

On May 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., city residents may bring loads of yard trash, old furniture, appliances which do not contain any hazardous materials, etc., to the same site (1700 W. Detroit). Public Works employees will be on hand to help unload trucks and trailers, and dump and trash trucks will then haul tons of trash to the land fill.

Is Your Storm Shelter, Safe Room Registered?

Broken Arrow residents who have storm shelters or safe rooms are urged to contact the City's Inspections Department and register those facilities. In the event of a damaging storm, rescue workers will know where to look in and around debris. Call 259-8333.

Rooster...

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through generations to come.

While Rooster Days have always provided a showcase for local talent, the past several events have featured some big name musical performers on both Friday and Saturday nights. There will be two stages going much of the time -- the smaller stage on the north side of the Community Center and the large Speedway Chevrolet Stage on the west side. This year on Friday Sonny Burgess will perform from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., then Christian Simmons from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The Rooster Days Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Main Street at College and will include the Pride of Broken Arrow, Miss Teen Oklahoma Ashley Hobbs and Miss Teen Broken Arrow Catie Wilson; Miss Broken Arrow Amanda Waterman; Honorary Mayor and Vice-Mayor Judy Gourd and Clarence Oliver; and much more. The parade will end at Central Park.

The carnival and food booths will open at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 6, with entertainment slated from 5 to 11 p.m. Friday the schedule will be the same, with the addition of the large stage performers. There will also be an arts and crafts show in the Community Center. Saturday the activities begin with the parade and Sunday the festival finishes up from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.



ON THE MIDWAY -- One of the most popular Rooster Day activities every year is the carnival and the food courts. Those open up Thursday, May 6, at Central Park.

City Sells Broken Arrow Items

Post cards. Lapel pins. Key rings. City of Broken Arrow sew-on patches. Stickers. Bumper and decal stickers.

Those items and many more are available from the City's water department cashier during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday). Prices range from a quarter for post cards to \$10 for hats.

The water department is located in the far south end of City Hall, 220 S. 1st Street.

City of Broken Arrow

City Hall(Phone) 251-5311
220 South First Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(www.brokenarrowok.gov)

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Animal Control259-8311
Citizens Action Center258-3587
Fire Department (Main office)259-8360
Parks & Recreation/Comm. Center ..259-8380
Public Works (all offices)259-8373
Seniors Center (at Main Place)259-8377
Sewer & Water Emergencies
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.259-8373
after hours259-8400
Police Department259-8350
TDD259-8452
Traffic Fines/Municipal Court259-8424
Utility Payments259-8409

Police, Fire or Ambulance Emergencies . . . 911

PRSRT STD

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011
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FOCUS

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